

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Downing Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

"The English Village"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Downing Street

CITY, TOWN

Hollister

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
# 7 - Hon. Gene Taylor

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Taney

CODE

213

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☒ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE  
☒ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☒ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET &amp; NUMBER

See Continuation Sheet

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Taney County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Forsyth

STATE

Missouri 65653

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri: A Guide to the Show Me State. (WPA Project)

DATE

1941

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Published: New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc.

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Downing Street Historic District, located in the center of the southwest Missouri town of Hollister, is one block long. It is bounded on the north by Third Street and on the south by Forth Street. It parallels the Missouri and Pacific Railway track (no longer in use) on the east side.

Hollister is in the Tri-Lakes (Table Rock, Taneycomo and Bull Shoals) area, about 37 miles south of Springfield, Mo., in the Ozark Plateau, near Table Rock Dam, in Taney County. The town lies in a valley between two hills to the east and west, on the east bank of Turkey Creek. The center of Hollister is about a mile from the confluence of Turkey Creek with the White River. Downing Street curves gently upward, towards the top of Presbyterian Hill, the site of the building which was formerly the railroad depot (now the City Hall), on the side of the street facing the other buildings. All of the area around the street and the railroad is landscaped.

The buildings of the Downing Street Historic District were built between 1909 and the 1920's as part of a planned village in the Elizabethan style. They are commercial buildings conceived in conjunction with the coming of the railroad in 1906, specifically for the purpose of attracting tourism. The designer, W.W. Johnson, reoriented the original direction of the Main Street so that the town's buildings would face the depot.

Although some of the buildings were restored in the 1960's, the changes are generally in keeping with the original style. Some of the buildings require repair, but the structures are generally sound. Due to building restrictions and an ordinance against factory construction, the town has retained its original plan.<sup>1</sup> Nearly all the buildings imitate the English half-timbered style. The architects made use of local materials, enhancing the harmony of the buildings with their setting. Water-washed stone from Turkey Creek was combined with stucco and pseudo half-timbering to create the Elizabethan appearance of the building.<sup>2</sup> Red tiles were used for roofing which is also in keeping with Elizabethan architecture. The buildings are aligned in a row on narrow lots on the east side of Downing Street facing the lone Depot on the opposite side.

All of the buildings in the Downing Street Historic District feature walls made of stone and stucco in a light beige color, with decorative boards painted a dark brown. These boards are not true half-timbering, but reproduce the effect of this form of construction. Allen W. Jackson gives the commonly accepted definition of half-timbering, typical of the Old English style, in his book The Half-timber House:

"The whole or part of the building is constructed with brick, mortar, or something of the sort, that produces the effect of black stripes on a white wall. This is 'black and white' work, or if looked at from the builder's point of view, half-timber and half-filling."<sup>3</sup>

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-1920's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Downing Street Historic District is significant because it began as a planned village and commercial center in the Elizabethan style. The site reflects the architectural possibilities of a rural, planned community. The village was built specifically to encourage the Missouri Pacific Railroad to include a stop at Hollister, as well as to attract tourism. The idea of a planned commercial street, conforming to a particular style, was an unusual concept for the early twentieth century. The attractive architectural style enhanced a natural setting which already had great potential as a vacation spot for tourists. Prior to the actual building of Downing Street, articles in the 1909 issues of the Hollister Bulletin emphasized the beautiful setting, the accommodations available to tourists, and the agricultural resources of the region surrounding Hollister.<sup>2</sup>

The frontier history of the area around Hollister is obscure, but it is known that in 1873, Melinda Mather, attracted by the fertile land, took possession of a previously unclaimed 120 acre tract of land, and her son Jacob Fortner filed claim to an adjoining 40 acre tract. The combined lands included the site which is now the center of Hollister. The mining boom of the 1890's brought settlers to the area surrounding the Fortner farm, but the railroad stimulated the real growth of the settlement which became Hollister.

Reuben Kirkham took possession of the Fortner lands in 1904 and opened a general store and a post office, not only to do business with railroad crews, but also because he was certain a community would develop when the railroad was finished. Both the post office and the boxcar which served as temporary depot were given the name of Hollister, for Kirkham's hometown in California.

William H. Johnson, an attorney from Springfield, saw the possibility of building an attractive community to encourage people to grow fruit, raise stock and set up businesses in Hollister. He was a shrewd businessman, and realized that the railroad would greatly increase the value of the land. He bought the land which had been vacated by Kirkham after his store and post office burned in 1905. At the same time, he made a plat for the land, with a street-oriented north-south, which he named Broadway. Johnson left some space for the depot and a yard for railroad ties. He divided the rest into lots which he put up for sale.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. The Book of a Hundred Houses. New York: Duffield and Co., 1906
2. Data excerpted from a draft National Register Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Viola Hartmann, Public Relations Correspondent for Hollister, Missouri.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.52 acres (computed by Ben Roselle Engineering Co., Branson, Mo.)  
QUADRANGLE NAME Hollister, Mo. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 480720 4052880  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

One city block bounded on the north by 3rd Street, on the south by 4th Street, on the east by Broadway, and on the west by Downing Street and by Lots 209, 210 and 211 of the Business District of Hollister.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. Francis H. Coffin, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Department of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 176

314/751-4096

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jefferson City

Missouri 65102

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 11, 1978

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

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<u>Bldg. Address</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Owner's Address</u>
1. 3 Downing St.	People's Bank of Branson	3rd and Commercial St., Branson, Mo. 65616
2. 7 Downing St.	Charles and Linda McRaven	25B Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
3. 8 Downing St.	Rosalie Whitehorn	8 Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
4. 9 Downing St.	Charles McRaven Maurice Swanberg	25B Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672 22 Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
5. 10 Downing St.	Lee Richardson, D.D.S.	10 Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
6. 11-12 Downing St.	Rosalie Whitehorn	8a Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
7. 14-16 Downing St.	Shirley and William Hartmann	14 Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
8. 17 Downing St.	Christian Science Society	c/o Pearl Hodges SR 3 Box 45 Branson, Mo. 65616
9. 19-20 Downing St.	Wayne Goodall	Hwy BB, Hollister, Mo. 65672
10. 21-23 Downing St.	Gale and Maurice Swanberg	23 Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
11. Mo-Pac Depot Downing St.	Mo-Pac Railroad	210 N. 13th St., St. Louis, Mo.
12. 25 Downing St.	Charles and Linda McRaven	25B Downing St., Hollister, Mo. 65672
13. 2 Downing St. (intrusion)	People's Bank of Branson	3rd and Commercial St., Branson, Mo. 65616

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- |     |  |                          |   |
|-----|--|--------------------------|---|
| 14. | 3-7 Downing St.<br>vacant lot<br>(intrusion) | People's Bank of Branson | 3rd and Commercial St.,<br>Branson, Mo. 65616 |
| 15. | 18 Downing St.<br>(intrusion)                | Rosalie Whitehorn        | 8a Downing St.,<br>Hollister, Mo. 65672       |

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2. An Archaeological and Historical Survey of Areas to be Affected by the  
Sanitary Sewer System, Hollister, Taney County, Missouri.  
March, 1976 state  
Center for Archaeological Research  
Southwest Missouri State University  
Springfield, Missouri 65802
3. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1975-78 state  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

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2. Viola Hartmann, Public Relations Correspondent  
Civic Club of Hollister, Missouri  
Box 3, Hwy K, Route 2 417/334-2742  
Kirbyville Missouri 65679
3. James M. Denny & Claire F. Blackwell, Editors  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Historic Preservation 314/751-4096  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City Missouri 65102

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Old English buildings are usually made up of several asymmetrical sections with projecting bays and a variety of gable forms, a style which is most evident in Ye Old English Inn. Important interior elements of Elizabethan buildings, reflected in a few of the interiors of Downing Street, include the fireplace and central staircase. The chimney corner, according to Allen W. Johnson, "was the lounging room, library, study and smoking room, and the history of English house-planning swings about this as a pivot."<sup>4</sup> The central lobby of Ye Old English Inn, with its winding staircase leading to the mezzanine, reflects the English cottage, which generally had stairs near the center, and the buttery, kitchen and pantry off to one side.<sup>5</sup> The interiors of most of the other buildings on Downing Street have been altered, although the Green Lantern Antique Shop and the Christian Science Society retain their original stone fireplaces.

The buildings of the Downing Street Historical District which are being nominated to the National Register are the following:

1. Continental Krafters, Inc. - 3 Downing Street. Architect - Ela Saad. Builder - Regan May. (Rockwork - James Holliday). 1920's. 1 and 1/2 story building in the Elizabethan style featuring a center gable with half-timbering effect. The building is in good condition, and keeps its original design, although fiberglass panels have replaced the front windows. The building was added on to in the early 1950's, but in the same style.
2. Silver Bull - Dr. John Edmonton's Office - Moria Forge. - 7 Downing Street. Architects - James Holliday and W.W. Johnson. Builder - James Holliday. Late teens to early 1920's. The original building was two stories high, with a one story forge added to it. The first story features the half-timbering effect on stone, while the second story has the half-timbering effect on stucco. The second story was added after the roof was damaged, and a canopy was attached to it.
3. Terry's Sheetmetal Shop-Village Antiques - 8, 8a Downing Street. Architect unknown. Builder - James Holliday. Late teens through early 1920's. It was part of the original town and faced the opposite direction, but a new addition was added when the Elizabethan village was created. The north building is 2 1/2 stories high, while the south building is two stories. There was originally an exterior, central staircase leading to the second story. The condition of the exterior is fair.
4. Artisan's Guild - 9 Downing Street. Architect - James Holliday. Builder - W.W. Johnson. Teens to 1920's. 1 and 1/2 stories. The stone-built first story has an overhang supported by beams, with a mortise-and-tenon frame forming a portico. The half-story features a pair of gabled dormers with overhangs. The building's condition is fairly poor.



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5. Lee Richardson, D.D.S. - 10 Downing Street. Builder - James Holliday. 1924. 1 story. There is a large center gable and an exterior chimney made of stone. The building is in excellent condition, as it was renovated and restored in 1967.
6. U.S. Post Office - Gwinn Ceramics - 11 and 12 Downing Street. Builder - James Holliday. Early 1920's. 1 story. Originally built as three buildings, but partial destruction by fire resulted in a restoration as two buildings, which in fact appear as one long, low building. The walls are of squared and coursed rubble. Good condition. Although the two buildings lack the half-timbered effect, the stone and stucco construction matches that of the other buildings.
7. 14-16 Downing Street - Green Lantern Antique Shop (Silversmith's and Kramer's in the same building.) Builders - W.W. Johnson, O.L. Howard. Early 1920's. 1 story. It features a large central gable and two arches of coursed rubble forming entrances to either side. The exterior is in fair to good condition, and is currently being renovated. Although much of the interior has been remodelled, it still has the original stone fireplace.
8. Christian Science Society - 17 Downing Street. Architect - W.H. Johnson. Builder - Ralph Bates, George Baker. 1920's. 1 and 1/2 stories. The first story is of stone, usual for Downing Street buildings, and the large, gabled attic is half-timber and stucco. The gable has a paired, casement window with lozenge-shaped panes. The roof has a boxed cornice with rows of brackets on the underside, and a pair of large brackets on either end. The structure is in quite good condition. The interior features a stone fireplace which is intact and a high-beam ceiling. It resembles a chapel and is intended to convey a sense of peace.
9. 19-20 Downing Street. (Goodall Building, V.K. Associates, Tri-Lakes Land, Butler Janitor Service). Architects - Regan May and Roy Kale. Builder - Regan May. 1920. 1 story. The walls are of stucco, with a projecting base of coursed rubble. The roof trim has exposed rafters supported by brackets. The building is in good condition, as it was renovated in 1976.
10. Ye Old English Inn - 21-23 Downing Street. Architect - Arch Talbot. Builder - W.W. Johnson. Constructed in 1912, with a 1927 addition. The two upper floors are of stucco and pseudo half-timbering alternating with brickwork containing decorative patterns created by stretchers darker than the surrounding bricks. Between the second and third story windows of the bricked sections are brick panels laid in a herringbone pattern, characteristic of the Tudor prototypes. There are a number of crossed and hipped gables. The building is in good condition, as it was renovated in 1967, along with most of the other buildings on Downing Street. Ye English Inn has been modernized, and the present facilities include a bank, but the main features and the form have been retained. The lobby features comfortable lounging quarters, large wide stone fireplace, winding stairs leading to the mezzanine. The principal curved wrought-iron staircase, the south room, and the upstairs rooms have been renovated, but they remain faithful to the original design.

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11. Hollister City Hall (formerly Missouri Pacific Railroad Depot). Architect - Arch Talbot. Builders - Shoemaker and W.H. Johnson. 1910. One story. Done more in the "mission style", it nonetheless fits well with the Elizabethan style of Downing Street, as the walls are of stucco and stone (squared and coursed rubble), and the single and double casement windows feature lozenge-shaped lights, similar to those found elsewhere on Downing Street. The tile roof has exposed rafters and several supporting wooden braces on the wall, as well as supporting stone pillars below. The exterior is in excellent condition.

12. The Glass Gallery (formerly Bank of Hollister). Architect - Arch Talbot. Builder - W.H. Johnson. Built in 1910- one of the original buildings to go up on Downing Street. 1 story. The stone wall has an overhanging shingle canopy supported by wooden beams, forming a small veranda. The tiled roof has a stuccoed gable with half-timber decoration. The structure is in excellent condition. Other than a small addition in back, the building is the same as it was in 1910.

Intrusions

13. The Kopecky Building - 2 Downing Street. It was built early in the 1950's, and therefore does not meet National Register of Historic Places criteria of eligibility. Still, it conforms to the Elizabethan style of the other buildings.

14. Vacant lot between #3 and #7 Downing Street.

15. Jim Dandy's Beauty Shop - 18 Downing Street. It was built in the early 1950's, but conforms to the style of the other buildings.

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles van Ravenswaay, Ed., Missouri: A Guide to the Show Me State (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941), p. 489.
2. Edith McCall, English Village in the Ozarks (np: 1969), p. 37.
3. Allen W. Jackson, The Half-timber House (New York: McBride, Nast and Co., 1912), p. 1.
4. Ibid., p. 108.
5. Ibid., p. 112.

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In the next three years, the few buildings which went up were rather cheap frame houses. Passengers riding in the trains would have seen only the backyards and an array of railroad ties strewn along the railroad right-of-way.<sup>3</sup> Johnson was disappointed with the early town, realizing that it offered little for the enticement of tourists. In 1909, he came up with the idea of creating an Elizabethan Village. He made up another plat which showed a new main street, Front Street, in which all the buildings faced the railroad right-of-way, where passengers on the trains would be able to see them. Johnson then sent \$500 to the railroad to get permission to design a new depot conforming to the style of the style of the village which he proposed. The railroad was so impressed that it eventually returned the money. The depot, built by Springfield's leading architect, Arch Talbot, was built in the "mission style" of water-washed stone and logs.<sup>4</sup> Talbot also prepared drawings for a little bank and an inn in the Elizabethan style. The depot and the bank were ready in 1910, and land sales boomed. The Old English Inn opened in 1912, a building much smaller than the present structure, but the actual hotel includes the original inn.

Johnson convinced the railroad that it would be to their advantage to participate in the development of the village. The area around the depot was landscaped. The new plat for the business section was accepted by the Board of Trustees in 1911. The former main street, Broadway, became an alley, and Front Street (now Downing Street) became the principal business street, running parallel to the railroad. The plats called for lots which were 100 feet deep and 25 feet wide on either side of Broadway.<sup>5</sup> To the east, Cliff Street was laid out near Turkey Creek and north of Third Street, which crossed Front Street alongside the Bank Building. The freight yards were deliberately moved away from the depot so as not to detract from the landscaping, which included terracing of the hill, low stone walls and gardens.

Johnson felt that Elizabethan style architecture, with its use of stone and half-timbering, would harmonize well with the limestone hills surrounding Downing Street.<sup>6</sup> He had travelled in Europe before 1905 and had been particularly impressed by the Elizabethan architecture he had seen in England. He seems to have captured the feeling of the architecture which he wished to imitate, as he sought to create a village which blended well with its natural setting, in keeping with the English tradition. Allen W. Johnson, in The Half-timber House, points out the importance of harmony of architecture and setting for the Elizabethan style English cottage:

"These houses take their place more like some work of nature than of man, more as if they had grown than as if they were made, nestling among the trees and verdure like the flower of some larger plant."<sup>7</sup>

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The number of design books and manuals containing pictures of houses in the Elizabethan idiom published in the beginning of the twentieth century indicate the popularity of the style at the time. The revival of Elizabethan style is related to the impact of the half-timbered designs which the British government introduced at the 1876 Philadelphia Exposition. The source for these designs was the architecture begun in England in 1868 by Richard Norman Shaw.<sup>8</sup>

Johnson and Arch Talbot, the first architect of Front Street, may have seen such designs at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition. Among the design books available at the time were The Book of Hundred Houses, published in 1906, Radford's Combined House and Barn Book, published in 1908, Elder-Duncan's Country Houses and Week-end Homes, from 1906 and Palliser's New Cottage Homes and Details.

Johnson made sure that all the buildings which were subsequently built on Downing Street conformed to the Elizabethan style. He obtained the following ordinance from the City Council:

"That in order to follow the city's original plan of building an English city, and knowing that to follow this plan is to make Hollister both unique and beautiful, we by ordinance do amend section 30 of ordinance 24 of November 17, 1913 and declare that all buildings in the future created in the business section (as outlined by the plat) follow our present Old English type of architecture, and that no other building style be allowed."<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the railroad and the attractive Old English style architecture of Downing Street, a power dam, which was in operation by April 1913, played an important role in attracting tourists to Hollister. Built at a site 10 miles below Hollister on White River, the dam created Lake Taneycomo, which made Hollister and nearby Branson important resort towns. The population of Hollister doubled at this time.

The town was particularly prosperous in the 1920's, due in great part to the stimulus of the railroad and the activities related to the resort area of Taneycomo. The English Inn was enlarged in 1927 to accommodate the numerous tourists. Bill Johnson bought it from his father and added a new section with three stories to the south of the original building.

Then the 1929 crash initiated a series of setbacks which reduced the number of tourists and trains. The success of the automobile took away some of the tourists who previously rode on the trains. Highway 65 from Springfield was routed through Branson, and Hollister was by-passed. As a result, most of the drivers missed the picturesque buildings.

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Flooding also caused periodic setbacks, contributing another factor in the decline in tourism. A bad flood in 1943 was followed in 1945 by the worst flood ever to hit Hollister.

By 1950, most of the buildings were empty, and the trains were bringing few tourists. Some commercial activity picked up in the 1950's, and a few of the town's people showed an interest in remodelling the street. A boost came in 1958 with the completion of Table Rock Dam near Hollister, which put a stop to the flooding, and provided a new attraction for tourists.

But despite these factors, by the early 1960's, most of the buildings were boarded up. Only the Christian Science Building and two manufacturing companies were in use. The railroad, which had been the major reason for the success of Hollister, ceased to run in 1960. Then Elijah Kirkley, who came to Hollister to build a bookstore, began a campaign to reactivate interest in Front Street. He felt that the English theme should be emphasized more. He came up with the idea of changing the name from Front Street to Downing Street, in keeping with the English style. The English Inn had a grand re-opening in 1967, and is now open 365 days a year. Downing Street was widened and revitalized in 1967, and nearly all the buildings have been repaired and remodelled.

The idea of a planned commercial street, conforming to a particular style, was a rather unusual concept for the early twentieth century, especially in southwest Missouri. Hollister's close association with the end of the Frontier Age and the beginning of the Industrial Age makes it a very interesting site which is well worth preserving.

The survey of Missouri's historical sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan. The Downing Street Historic District, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the theme of "Urban Design."

FOOTNOTES

1. Charles van Ravenswaay, Ed., Missouri: A Guide to the Show Me State
2. Edith McCall, English Village in the Ozarks (np 1969), p. 28.
3. Peggy Soric, "Hollister: Town With an Exciting Past", Springfield News and Leader, Section C, September 29, 1974.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

4. Paul J. Pirmann, "Hollister, Missouri: A Town Where Architectural Form is Effective," New York, The American City, August 1929, p. 123.
5. The area was originally settled by English descendants, and traces of Elizabethan traditions could be detected in the folk culture of the region. Perhaps this heritage helped orient Johnson towards Elizabethan architecture rather than other building traditions. For further discussion of the persistence of Elizabethan traditions in the folk culture of the region, see Vance Randolph, Down in the Holler (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953), especially chapter 4, "Survivals of Early English", pp. 70-94.
6. Allen W. Jackson, The Half-timber House (New York: McBride, Nast and Co., 1912), p. 23.
7. Lawrence Grow, Old House Plans: Two Centuries of American Domestic Architecture (New York: Main Street Press, 1978), p. 63.
8. McCall, English Village in the Ozarks, p. 60

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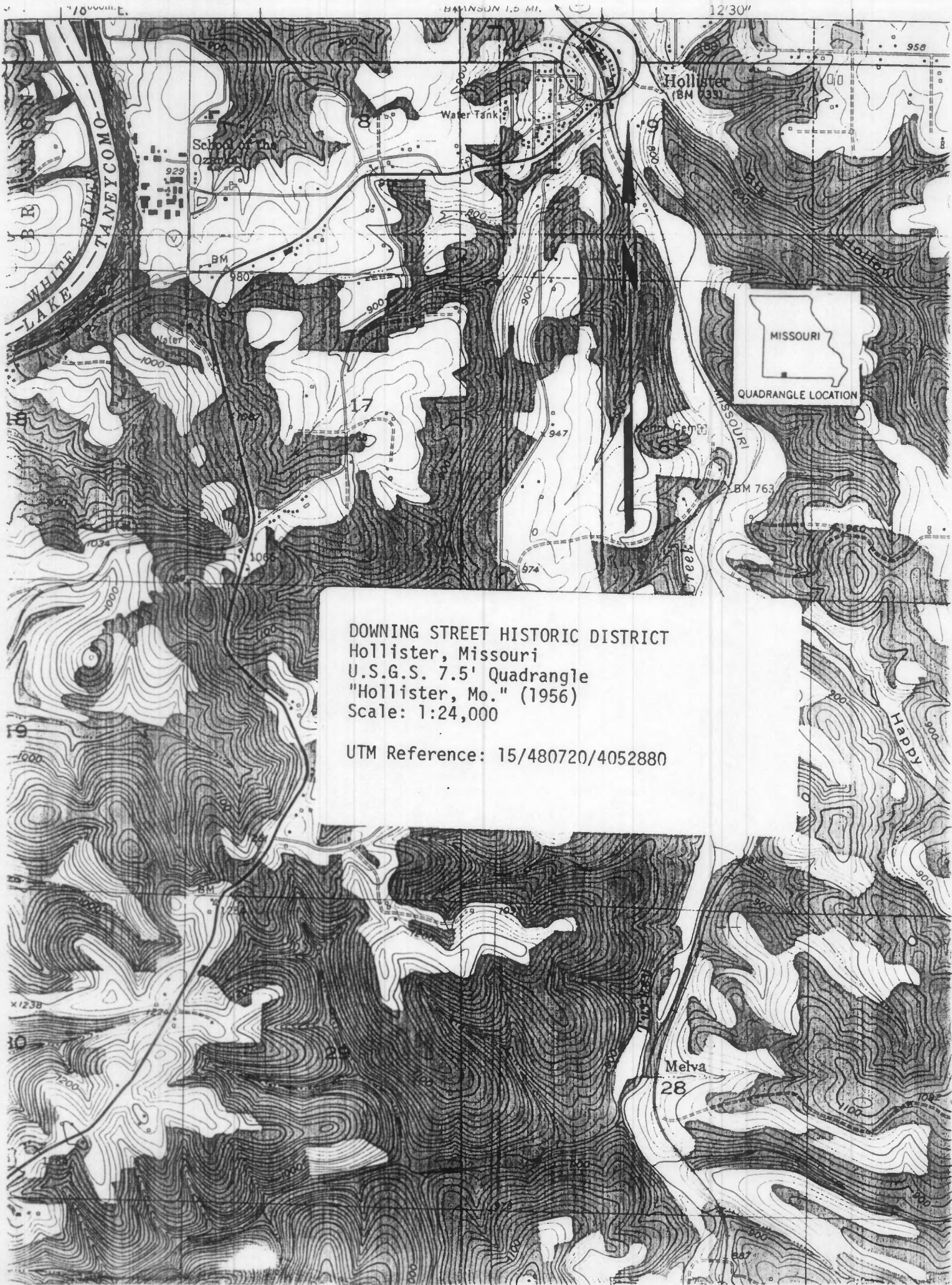
DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Davis, Mrs. L. Conversation on June 20, 1978.
4. Elder-Duncan, J.H. Country Cottages and Week-end Homes: A Collection of Pictures, Plans and Suggestions for Householders. New York: Duffield and Co., 1906.
5. Grow, Lawrence. Old House Plans: Two Centuries of American Domestic Architecture. New York: Main Street Press, 1978.
6. Jackson, Allen W. The Half-timber House. New York: McBride, Nast and Co., 1912.
7. McCall, Edith. English Village in the Ozarks. np: 1969.
8. Palliser's New Cottage Homes and Details. New York: Palliser, Palliser and Co., nd.
9. Pirmann, Paul J., "Hollister, Missouri: A Town in the Ozarks Where Architectural Form is Effective," New York, The American City, August 1929, p. 123.
10. Radford, William A. Radford's Combined House and Barn Plan Book. Chicago: The Radford Architectural Company, 1908.
11. Randolph, Vance. Down in the Holler. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953.
12. Soric, Peggy. "Hollister - Town With an Exciting Past." Springfield News and Leader, September 29, 1974, Section C.
13. van Ravenswaay, Charles, ed. Missouri: A Guide to the Show Me State. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1941.



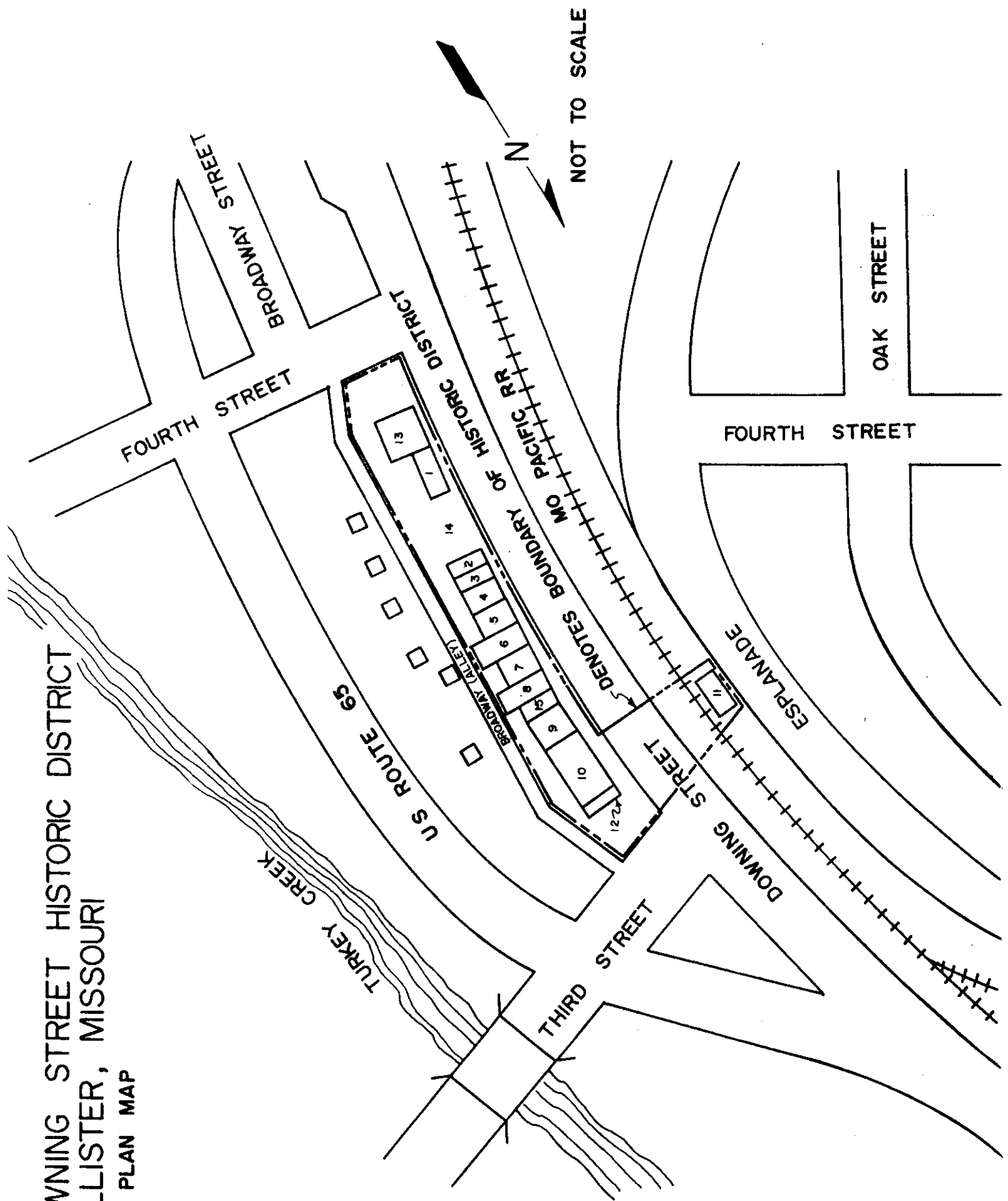


DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Hollister, Missouri  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
"Hollister, Mo." (1956)  
Scale: 1:24,000

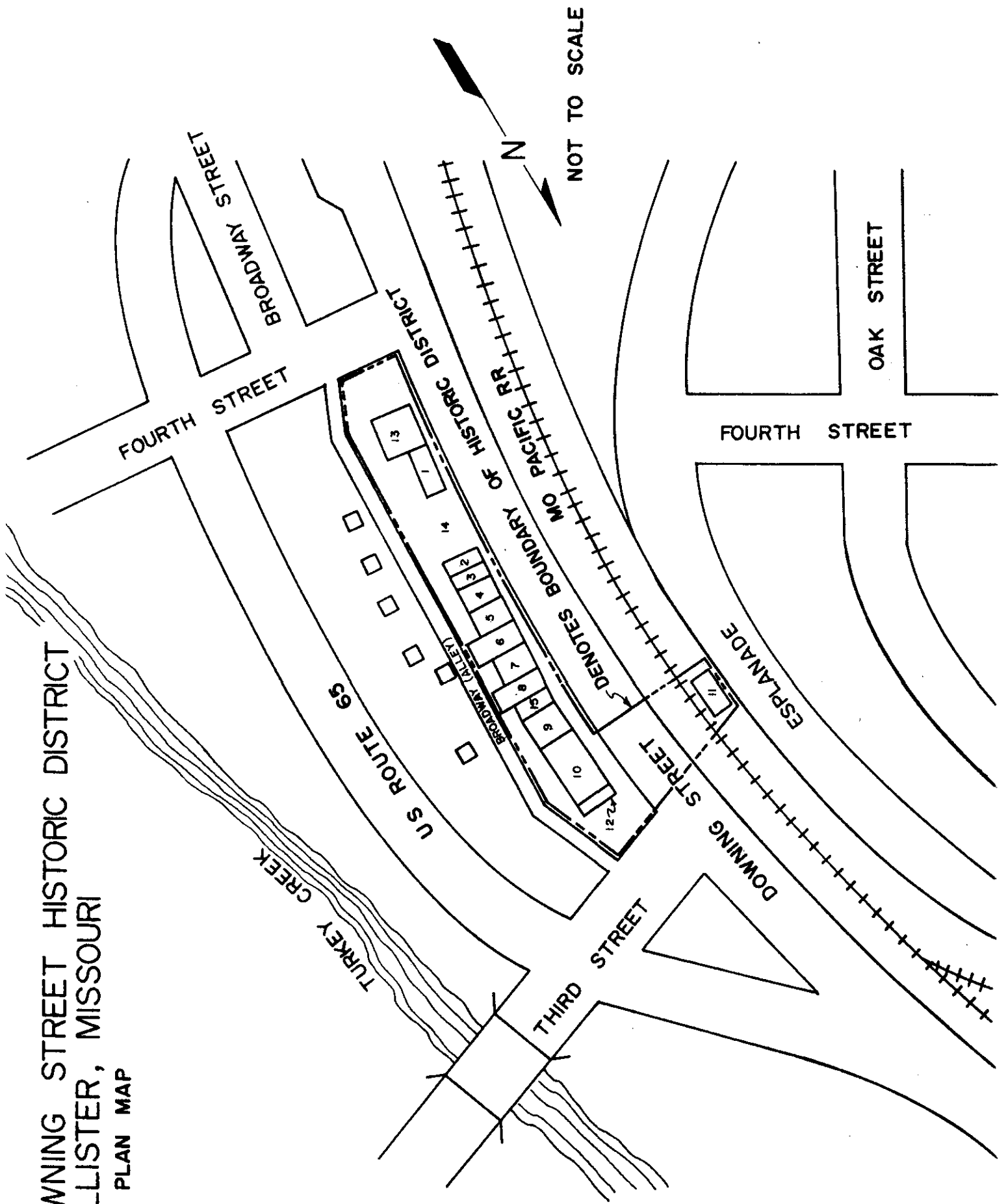
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DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
HOLLISTER, MISSOURI  
SITE PLAN MAP



DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
HOLLISTER, MISSOURI  
SITE PLAN MAP



#336

DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

COUNTY:

Taney

LOCATION:

Downing Street  
Hollister

OWNER:

Multiple Ownership

ADDRESS:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

July 14, 1978

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

August 11, 1978

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

August 17, 1978

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

December 29, 1978

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR):

March 29, 1979 (1 mailed by bus)  
(Claire Blackwell & Orval Henderson)

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

Downing Street Historic District is significant because it began as a planned village and commercial center in the Elizabethan style. The site reflects the architectural possibilities of a rural, planned community. The village was built specifically to encourage the Missouri Pacific Railroad to include a stop at Hollister, as well as to attract tourism. The idea of a planned commercial street, conforming to a particular style, was an unusual concept for the early twentieth century. The attractive architectural style enhanced a natural setting which already had great potential as a vacation spot for tourists. Prior to the actual building of Downing Street, articles in the 1909 issues of the Hollister Bulletin emphasized the beautiful setting, the accommodations available to tourists, and the agricultural resources of the region surrounding Hollister.

DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Hollister, Missouri

#1

Photographer: F.Coffin

August, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Downing Street- View to South



DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT #2

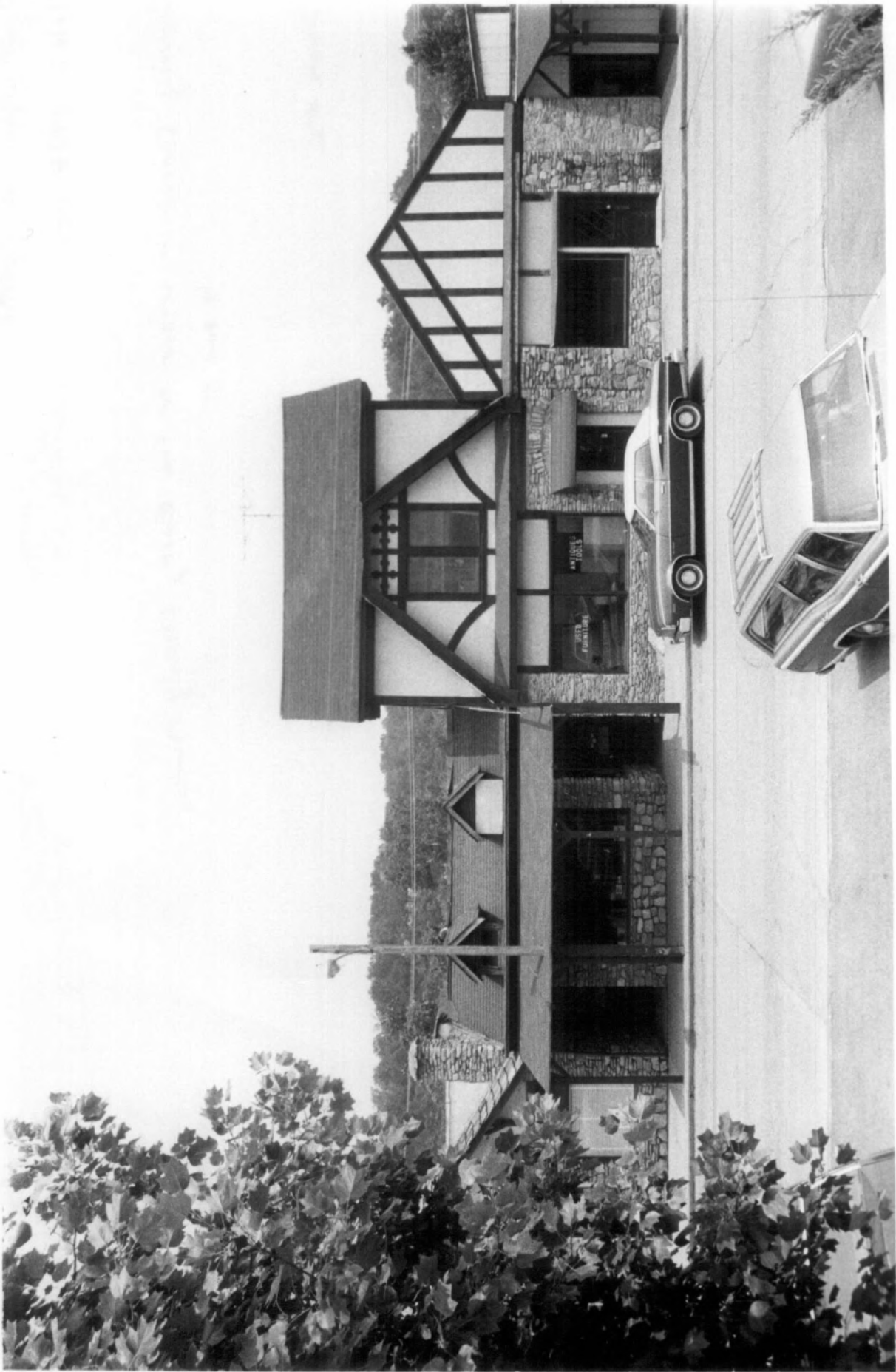
Hollister, Missouri

Photographer: F.Coffin

August, 1978

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Downing Street- View to the East, showing  
numbers 4 and 5





DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT #3  
Hollister, Missouri

Photographer: F.Coffin

August, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Downing Street- View to East, showing  
numbers 7 and 8



DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT #4

Hollister, Missouri

Photographer: E. Coffin  
August, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Downing Street- View to the North, showing  
numbers 9, 10 and 12



#5

DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Hollister, Missouri

Photographer: F. Coffin

August, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,

Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Missouri

Downing Street- View to Northeast, showing

numbers 9, 10 and 12



#6

DOWNING STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Hollister, Missouri

Photographer: F. Coffin

August, 1978

Neg. Loc.: Department of Natural Resources,  
Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri

Mo-Pac Depot- view to Southeast, facing  
Downing Street



